(b) if so, what is the programme for 2001-2002; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Promotion of small scale industries (SSIs) has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. Special thrust is given for rural areas through the schemes like the Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme, and the National Programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRl). These schemes are being continued in 2001-02.

Impact of Dumping of Foreign Goods on SSIs

3496. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out of comprehensive strategy to help the small scale units to fight anti-dumping cases;

(b) if so, whether smuggling and import of small items reserved for the small scale industries have been affected adversely; and

(c) if so, the details of the strategy to be adopted to strengthen the small scale industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has worked out a comprehensive strategy which includes provision of financial assistance upto Rs. One lakh to SSI Associations who have initiated anti-dumping investigations, a panel of experts who can be referred for issues concerning anti-dumping, information dissemination through twenty Anti Dumping Workshops all over the country, etc.

(b) As per recent import data, it is seen that the import of 300 sensitive items, as identified by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry after the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs), has shown a negative growth rate of 11% for these products. Therefore, there is no surge in imports. With the liberalization of the economy and removal of all QRs on imports, there is now a free flow of imports through regular channels.

(c) The Government has put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modem management practices, use

of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation. A Comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Employment Generation in Khadi Industry

3497. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether more employment has been generated/created in the Khadi Industry since 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reasons, *inter-alia,* for marginal decline in employment under Khadi sector since 1997-98, are need for better designs, greater compatibility with consumer demand and improved marketing.

Non-Payment of Annual Working Capital to Khadi Institutions

3498. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not paid up its annual one third working capital pledged to Khadi Institutions all over the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to save the Khadi Industry from the massive lay off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government does not provide working